

From the Road

I am writing to you from my desk in the van, which is currently parked in Saint Petersburg, Florida. It's hard to believe all the places I've visited and the people I've met over the past five months since I began traveling the country with Turning Around America. At this point in the project, I have taught at:

- Fourteen high schools
- Five colleges
- Three elementary schools
- Three woodturning guilds
- One Cub Scout troop
- One community art center
- One woodturning school
- One woodturning symposium
- One program for teenage boys at risk
- Guerrilla workshops

Turning Around America has reached over 1,540 people, in 21 states, over 10,000 miles!

The rewards for me have been many: from the bubbling enthusiasm of a third grader touching a tool for the first time, to the sincere handshake of a high school junior who is excited about his first turned object, to a school administration considering the purchase of lathes for the art classes at the Yeshiva Girls High School. One wonderful second grader at WISH Elementary School in Los Angeles announced to his mother, "You know how I always wanted to be an astronaut, Mom? Well now I think I want to be a woodworker."

These stories demonstrate that we are achieving our goal of teaching people the thrill and empowerment of using their hands to create an object. Over the next four months, we want to reach another 1,300 kids, teens and adults. In order

to make this happen, we need your support.

The project has been entirely funded through the generosity of people like you. Many schools do not have funding to pay us. The honorariums I have received from schools and guilds cover only a fraction of the cost of fuel. Your contribution will purchase materials, gas and lodging.

Turning Around America is changing my perspective about the act of living, teaching, creating and learning. The lessons have been as diverse as the people I've taught and places I've traveled. What has remained constant is the belief that: if you can conceive and believe, you can also achieve. Please help me bring this message to an even wider audience. You can donate and follow my progress and see new pictures of the project at: www.turningaroundamerica.com, click on the **Blog** link page for a personal story of my journey.

Thank you for your support,

Beth Ireland

<http://www.turningaroundamerica.com>

